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My Week

by R. J. Deachman

The budget is out. Now it is the solemn duty of all people with conflicting views to tear it apart. I hope they do so. Not that I deem the budget particularly bad, taking the circumstances into consideration, it may be fairly good. In fact it may go down in history as the first good thing the Federal Government has done in May 1948.

There are two conflicting opinions on this budget—pardon me, my mind slipped a cog—there are four the government, the Opposition, the C.C.F., and the S.C. party Social Credit. If you would like the name of the fourth ingredient in full perhaps we may as well consider the first two and forget the others momentarily.

The Government is attempting to develop the habit of a compensatory budget. Taxes will be high in good times, debt will be reduced expenditures will be cut—that's hope for the future and a dim one unless the people rouse themselves to the need for it. Then when hard times come and they will come, have no doubt about that, the Government will loosen up, reduce taxes, increase expenditures, particularly along the line of public works having a permanent or even an asset value. So the tendency will be to level up—avoid the depth of depression, and the peaks of boom, which, as the economic records of the nation reveal, have followed after each other, like alternate clouds and sunshine on a summer's day.

Now for the second point of view. Here the theory is that the high cost of living is, in some measure, due to the high rate of taxation.

That is true if we accept the idea that a reduction of taxation and the lower price which would be brought about would stimulate production and thus improve the economic position of the Dominion. Unfortunately this anticipated result is not likely to follow. We are still in an inflationary cycle. A broad cut in the Sales Tax now might lose the revenue and fail to get the price reductions. Normally tax cuts are a wise policy but today we do well to reduce debts and live frugally. Who knows what lies ahead in the world of today, we must budget for conditions as they are.

All this makes me ponder mightily on things which, at times, disturb me. If we had gone to sleep night before the budget and for some reason the budget had been brought down by the Conservative party, would it have been very similar to the one which Mr. Abbott produced and would Mr. Abbott as chief financial critic of the opposition, have made criticisms not unlike those delivered by Mr. J.M. Macdonnell, the Prog-Con member for Muskoka, Ont.? If so, what thin partitions do our lines divide? Politics has its funny moments.

There is one thing that should be hammered into the minds of the people. They asked for high taxes. All shades of politics support almost every possible measure of spending. I don't know any other means by which we can get lower taxes except running into debt or reducing expenditures. It will need courage to do it. The people believe in high taxes right through the year until budget day. Then they criticize the budget because taxes are not reduced despite the requests of the people for high and increasingly higher public expenditures. But a



Elizabeth Benson Guy, young Halifax singer who will be guest artist in the Symphony for Strings broadcast on Friday June 4th at 10:30 MDT on the CBC Trans-Canada network. Miss Guy was one of this year's winners in the Singing Stars of Tomorrow radio contest series. She is studying for a operatic and concert career at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto.

change will come. I am thoroughly convinced that the worm will turn. The tired tax-payer who forks out \$2,664 millions a year will begin to change his mind about expenditures. Of course, in this vast sum, there are some non-tax revenue items and the debt has been reduced—but even with these the load is heavy. If taxes could be cut, and cost of living decline, not too precipitously, of course, it would be a godsend in more senses than one for the people of Canada.

Well Mr. Stalin, what have you to say about it? Too much—if I know anything—please give us a hint. If you were less belligerent I would have more hope.

TOO TRUE

"In the Senate recently a member pointed out that this country was not developed by government handouts and money grants, but by the individuals who succeeded by their own efforts. Now we have all kinds of aids such as grants to those wanting to take university courses, baby bonuses, and many other things for which the taxpayers stand the costs."

The view that the world owes us a living seems to prevail in many peoples minds, and vote-catching politicians encourage this view. It is absolutely wrong, and will, instead of strengthening the moral fibre of the people, lead to their undoing. This leaning on governments develops weakness in those who haven't the initiative to rely on themselves. There always will be the weak who as long as others will help them, will sit back and take everything handed to them as if it were a right.

The best help is self-help, whereby a man develops his own resources and gets along under his own steam. Paternalism of governments and Socialistic theories will not make lazy people better citizens. Canada presents opportunities aplenty for those who are willing to use their God-given energies towards improving their own standards. Bolstering up "weak sisters" by government handouts is entirely wrong. Vote-catching political candidates should be plainly told so."

—From The Macleod Gazette.

Lethbridge Experimental Station

WEEKLY LETTER CONTROL GULLY EROSION

The spring run-off this year has caused serious erosion in many localities in Southern Alberta. Some erosion takes place every spring to make us realize that precautions should be taken to control it.

On most farms there are drainage ways that occasionally carry an excess of run-off water. Seeding down to grass is the most satisfactory way to prevent erosion of these natural drainageways. The farmer will be well repaid for doing a little preparatory work before doing the actual seeding.

Last week a drainageway was prepared for seeding at the Nobleford substation. Both sides of the drain were plowed with a four-bottom plow and then a small grader was used to fill in the eroded parts. The grader was then used to level out the bottom of the draw so that the channel was flat and about ten feet wide. The sides were then graded so that implements can pass across. The natural channel was followed as closely as possible, only the sharp turns were eliminated.

To provide temporary protection against erosion a light broadcast seeding of grain is suggested. With this the grass is seeded to provide

permanent protection. Seeding the best grass where it will grow satisfactorily but eroded wheat grass will serve the purpose if sown at about 10 to 12 pounds per acre. Broadcasting the seed is suggested because in drilling grass seed into this spring with scarcely any erosion a drainageway drilling usually par-

allels the draw and this encourages the formation of channels between the rows.

On the substation where drainage ways have been seeded to brome in the past heavy run-offs were carried this spring with scarcely any erosion.

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